



Review of *Apoplophora* (Acari: Oribatida: Mesoplophoridae), with the description of a new species from China

DONG LIU^{1,2}, JUN CHEN^{1,3} & GEXIA QIAO¹

¹ Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Evolution, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100101, P. R. China.

² Graduate University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, P. R. China. E-mail: yzliudong@126.com

³ Corresponding author: E-mail: chenjun@ioz.ac.cn

Abstract

The oribatid mite genus *Apoplophora* Aoki, 1980 (Mesoplophoridae) is reviewed, and a checklist and key to all known species are provided. Three species of *Apoplophora* including a new species, *Apoplophora dentata* **sp. nov.** from Tibet, and a newly recorded species from China, *Apoplophora heterotricha* Mahunka, 1987, are identified, and their morphological descriptions and illustrations are also given.

Key words: Oribatida, Mesoplophoridae, *Apoplophora*, soil mites, new species, new record, China

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Apoplophora* is a small genus occurring in Oriental and Australian regions. At present, the genus is represented by 14 valid species worldwide.

Aoki (1980) proposed the genus *Apoplophora* for the type-species, *Apoplophora remota* from Japan, and he also included *Mesoplophora discreta* in this genus. Niedbala (1984) regarded *A. remota* as a junior synonym of *M. pantotrema*, hence *Mesoplophora pantotrema* Berlese, 1913 is the type-species of *Apoplophora*.

Mesoplophora pantotrema and *M. discreta* were described by Berlese (1913) as new species from Java. Grandjean (1933) treated *M. discreta* as a junior synonym of *M. pantotrema*, and considered that the type specimen of *M. pantotrema* was a tritonymph of *M. discreta*. Hammen (1959) and Niedbala (1993) agreed with Grandjean's view. However, Aoki (1980) did not accept these opinions, and considered that further studies (*i.e.* by rearing) are necessary to ascertain the validity of the species. Hammer (1979) redescribed *M. pantotrema*, and reported two new species from Java, *M. leviseta* and *M. rostrorugosa*, which were transferred to *Apoplophora* by Mahunka (1987), but subsequently Mahunka (1991) reversed his combination of *A. leviseta* back to *Mesoplophora*. Niedbala (1984) revised the genus *Apoplophora* and regarded *M. rostrorugosa* and *A. remota* as synonymous with *A. pantotrema* (Berlese). In the same paper, he proposed the family Apoplophoridae. On the basis of cladistic analysis of Hypochthonioidea, Norton (1984) regarded *Apoplophora* as a genus of Mesoplophoridae. Niedbala (2001) analysed the features of this genus and discussed their taxonomic signification.

Mahunka (1985, 1987, 1988, 1991) described eleven new species of this genus: *M. indica* and *M. striata* from South India, which were transferred to *Apoplophora* by himself in 1987; *A. heterotricha*, *A. lineata*, *A. spinosa*, *A. ornatissima*, *A. cristata*, *A. jaccoudi*, *A. malaya*, *A. marcuardi* and *A. triseta* from Malaysia. Also, Niedbala (1998, 2000, 2004) described seven new species of *Apoplophora*: *A. solomonensis* from Solomon Islands; *A. ornata* from Indonesia; *A. phalerata* from India and Indonesia; and *A. kapiti*, *A. sarawaki*, *A.*

serrata and *A. triquetra* from Malaysia. In his monograph (Niedbala 2000), *A. trisetata* was treated as a junior synonym of *A. marcuardi*; *M. indica*, *M. striata*, *A. lineata*, *A. ornatissima* and *A. jaccoudi* were regarded as synonymous with *A. pantotrema*. Mondal, Kundu and Roy (1999) described one new species, *A. aokii*, from Darjeeling (India). In the checklist compiled by Subías (2004), there are 10 species included in *Apoplophora*.

Chu and Aoki (1997) recorded *A. pantotrema* from Taiwan, which was the first record of *Apoplophora* in China. Since then, no other species of this genus has been reported from China (Wang *et al.* 2002).

In this paper, we focus on three species of *Apoplophora* now known from China. Based on Chinese specimens, we redescribe *A. pantotrema* and *A. heterotricha*, the latter being newly recorded in China. The third species is newly described as *Apoplophora dentata* **sp. nov.**. In addition, we provide a checklist which contains all valid species, distribution information and literatures that treat taxonomic issues involving this genus. Also, a key to all known species is presented herein.

Material and methods

Measurements and descriptions are based on specimens mounted in temporary cavity slides that were studied using a standard light microscope equipped with a drawing attachment.

Terminology generally follows Niedbala (1984, 2000). Explanations and abbreviations for setae of ventral region: *v*: ventral setae; *h*: setae on antero-lateral position of ventral region*; *an*: setae on “ano-adanal” plates**. The unit of measurement is micrometres (µm).

All specimens studied are deposited in the Zoological Museum, Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing.

* The setae on antero-lateral position of ventral region are usually regarded as ventral setae (Aoki 1980; Mahunka 1987, 1991; Niedbala 2004) or aggenital setae (Niedbala 2000, 2001; Niedbala & Corpuz-Raros 1998). However, these setae are probably homologous to *h*₂ and *h*₃ of the notogaster in the genus *Eniochthonius* (closest to Mesoplophoridae) (Norton 1984, Norton & Behan-Pelletier 2007). So it's better to adopt names setae *h*₂ and *h*₃ instead of antero-lateral or aggenital setae. The word “antero-lateral” mentioned in this paper just indicates the position of these setae.

** Aoki (1980) assumed that the valves covering the anal chamber are the anal plates alone. However, Norton (1984) considered that the adanal plate has fused with the anal plate to form a composite paraproctal valve which is discrete in stage of deutonymph and tritonymph. Therefore, the setae on the paraproctal valves are not necessarily all “anal” setae. Here we temporarily use the name “ano-adanal”.

Taxonomy

Apoplophora Aoki, 1980

Type species: Mesoplophora pantotrema Berlese, 1913 (= *Apoplophora remota* Aoki, 1980)

Diagnosis. Sensillus smooth or covered with short barbs; exobothridial seta longer than diameter of bothridium (with exception of *A. ornata*); seta *c*₃ similar in shape to other notogastral setae or fine, smooth and shorter than them; genital plate triangular, anal and adanal plates fused to form an “ano-adanal” plate, distance between genital and “ano-adanal” plates longer than length of “ano-adanal” plate; five to six pairs ventral setae; one or two pairs of setae present on antero-lateral position of ventral region; two to four pairs of setae on “ano-adanal” plates; six pairs of smooth genital setae present.

Distribution. China, Australia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Species of the genus *Apoplophora* Aoki, 1980

Apoplophora aokii Mondal, Kundu & Roy, 1999

Apoplophora aokii Mondal, Kundu & Roy, 1999, p. 73, figs. 1–3.

Distribution: India (West Bengal).

Apoplophora cristata Mahunka, 1991

Apoplophora cristata Mahunka, 1991, p. 327, figs. 1–3; Niedbała, 2000, p. 45, figs. 48–50; 2001, p. 363, figs. 1–2; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Malaysia (Pehang).

Apoplophora dentata **sp. nov.**

Distribution: China (Tibet).

Apoplophora heterotricha Mahunka, 1987 **Newly recorded from China**

Apoplophora heterotricha Mahunka, 1987, p. 770, figs. 1–3; Niedbała, 2000, p. 47, figs. 51–54; 2001, p. 365, figs. 3–6; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: China (Tibet), India (Meghalaya, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal), Indonesia (Kalimantan), Malaysia (Sabah), Nepal (Bagmati).

Apoplophora kapiti Niedbała, 2004

Apoplophora kapiti Niedbała, 2004, p. 394, Tab. I, figs. 5–8.

Distribution: Malaysia (Sarawak).

Apoplophora malaya Mahunka, 1991

Apoplophora malaya Mahunka, 1991, p. 329, figs. 8–11; Niedbała, 2000, p. 49, figs. 55–59; 2001, p. 366, figs. 7–9; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Malaysia (Jahor, Pehang).

Apoplophora marcuardi Mahunka, 1991

Apoplophora marcuardi Mahunka, 1991, p. 332, figs. 12–15; Niedbała, 2000, p. 49, figs. 61–63; 2001, p. 366, figs. 10–12; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Apoplophora trisetata Mahunka, 1991, p. 332, figs. 17–19; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Malaysia (Perak).

Apoplophora ornata Niedbała, 2000

Apoplophora ornata Niedbała, 2000, p. 51, figs. 67–70; 2001, p. 369, figs. 13–16; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Indonesia (Borneo).

Apoplophora pantotrema (Berlese, 1913)

Mesoplophora pantotrema Berlese, 1913, p. 10, fig. 94; Hammer, 1979, p. 6, fig. 1.

Mesoplophora discreta Berlese, 1913, p. 101, fig. 95.

Mesoplophora rostrorugosa Hammer, 1979, p. 7, fig. 3.

Apoplophora remota Aoki, 1980, p. 13, fig. 4.

Apoplophora pantotrema: Niedbała, 1984, p. 149, figs. 4–6; Chu & Aoki, 1997, p. 174; Niedbała, 1998, p. 441, figs. 4–6; 2000, p. 53, figs. 64–66; 2001, p. 369, figs. 17–35; Niedbała & Corpuz-Raros, 1998, p. 11, figs. 16–18; Wang, Wen & Chen, 2002, p. 109; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Mesoplophora indica Mahunka, 1985, p. 370, figs. 8–10.

Mesoplophora striata Mahunka, 1985, p. 371, figs. 11–13.

Apoplophora lineata Mahunka, 1987, p. 773, figs. 4–7.

Apoplophora ornatissima Mahunka, 1988, p. 824, figs. 1–4.

Apoplophora jaccoudi Mahunka, 1991, p. 329, figs. 4–6.

Distribution: China (Beijing, Fujian, Hainan, Taiwan), Australia (Queensland), Fiji, India (Kerala, Nandi Hills), Indonesia (Bali, Borneo, Cibodas, Java, Kalimantan, Sarawak, Sulawesi, Sumatra), Japan (Amami Ohshima Is.), Malaysia (Jahor, Kuala Lumpur, Pehang, Sabah), Papua New Guinea, Philippines (Luzon Is., Palawan Is., Polillo Is., Samar Is.), Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka (Central Province), Thailand (Chienamai, Malaya Peninsula), Vietnam (Dalat, Tam Dao).

Apoplophora phalerata Niedbala, 2000

Apoplophora phalerata Niedbala, 2000, p. 59, figs. 71–74; 2001, p. 375, figs. 36–42; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: India (Tamil Nadu), Indonesia (Sulawesi, Sumatra), Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak)

Apoplophora sarawaki Niedbala, 2004

Apoplophora sarawaki Niedbala, 2004, p. 396, Tab. II, figs. 1–3.

Distribution: Malaysia (Sarawak).

Apoplophora serrata Niedbala, 2004

Apoplophora serrata Niedbala, 2004, p. 396, Tab. II, figs. 4–6.

Distribution: Malaysia (Sarawak).

Apoplophora solomonensis Niedbala, 1998

Apoplophora solomonensis Niedbala, 1998, p. 442, figs. 7–11; 2001, p. 377, figs. 43–46; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Solomon Islands.

Apoplophora spinosa Mahunka, 1987

Apoplophora spinosa Mahunka, 1987, p. 773, figs. 8–11; Niedbala, 2000, p. 61, fig. 60; 2001, p. 377, figs. 47–48; Subías, 2004, p. 41.

Distribution: Indonesia (Borneo), Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak).

Apoplophora triquetra Niedbala, 2004

Apoplophora triquetra Niedbala, 2004, p. 397, Tab. III, figs. 1–7.

Distribution: Malaysia (Sarawak).

Descriptions of species from China

Apoplophora dentata sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–4)

Material examined: Holotype: Adult (in alcohol), CHINA: Tibet, Mêdog County (29°19'31.08"N, 95°19'59.51"E), from litter, 800M, 9, Jan., 1983, leg. Yin-Heng Han. Paratype: 1 adult (in alcohol), with same data as holotype.

Etymology. The new specific name “*dentata*” is from Latin, and refers to the dentate margin of the rostrum.

Diagnosis: Anterior margin of prodorsum finely dentate; all prodorsal and notogastral setae faintly barbed, except setae c_3 fine, short and smooth; six pairs of ventral setae and setae h_2 and h_3 faintly barbed, nearly uniformly thick, but h_2 and h_3 much longer.



FIGURE 1–4. *Apoplophora dentata* sp. nov.: 1, prodorsum, dorsal view; 2, anterior margin of rostrum, dorsal view; 3, lateral view of body (legs removed); 4, ventral region. Scale bars: 1, 3, 4 = 100 μ m, 2 = 200 μ m.

Measurements of adult holotype: Prodorsum: length 285, width 240, height 160, sensillus 145, setae: *in* 100, *le* 110, *ro* 110, distance between setae: *in-in* 100, *le-le* 190, *ro-ro* 165, *in-le* 60, *le-ro* 65; notogaster: length 400, width 365, height 290; setae: *c*₁ 95, *c*₂ 100, *c*₃ 60, *c*_p 100, *d*₁ 100, *d*₂ 100, *e*₁ 105, *e*₂ 110; distance between setae: *c*₁–*d*₁ 120, *d*₁–*e*₁ 255; ventral region: ventral setae: *v*₁ 55, *v*₂ 60, *v*₃ 60, *v*₄ 75, *v*₅ 75, *v*₆ 60, *h*₂ 90, *h*₃ 90, *an*₁ 40, *an*₂ 45, *an*₃ 40; “ano-adanal” plate 95×55.

Large species. Colour yellow. Surface of body smooth.

Anterior margin of rostrum finely dentate; sensillus long, thin, setiform, sparsely covered with faint barbs unilaterally; prodorsal setae *in*, *le*, *ro* faintly barbed; exobothridial seta thin, long, several times longer than diameter of bothridium, sparsely covered with small barbs; comparative length: *ro*=*le*>*in*>*ex*; lamellar seta situated between interlamellar and rostral setae, slightly closer to interlamellar seta.

Notogaster with eight pairs of setae, faintly barbed, relatively thick except setae *c*₃ thin, short and smooth; seta *c*₂ more remote from anterior margin than setae *c*₁ and *c*₃.

Ventral region with six pairs of ventral setae, nearly uniformly thick, faintly barbed as notogastral setae; setae *h*₂ and *h*₃ faintly barbed, equally thick with ventral setae, but much longer; genital plates with six pairs of smooth setae; “ano-adanal” plates with three pairs of faintly barbed setae.

Distribution. Known only from type locality.

Remarks. This new species is similar to *A. heterotricha* Mahunka, 1987, *A. malaya* Mahunka, 1991 and *A. solomonensis* Niedbala, 1998 in having short, fine and smooth seta *c*₃. It differs from them by the following combined characters: prodorsal, notogastral and ventral setae faintly barbed, except setae *c*₃ and genital setae; all ventral setae nearly uniformly thick; setae *h*₂ and *h*₃ longer than ventral setae; anterior margin of rostrum finely dentate. This new species is also similar to *A. phalerata* Niedbala, 2000 in having two barbed long setae on antero-lateral position of ventral region, but differs from the latter by: seta *c*₃ fine, smooth and shorter than other notogastral setae; all prodorsal setae nearly equally thick, except setae *ex*; rostrum finely dentate anteriorly; all setae, except genital setae and setae *c*₃, faintly barbed.

Apoplophora heterotricha Mahunka, 1987

(Figs. 5–7)

Apoplophora heterotricha Mahunka, 1987, p. 770, figs. 1–3; Niedbala, 2000, p. 47, figs. 51–54; 2001, p. 365, figs. 3–6.

Material examined: 2 adults (in alcohol, CJ-01-98), CHINA: Tibet, Nyalam County, No.318 national highway in Zham Town (27°59'16.65"N, 85°59'20.76"E), from litter under broadleaf forest and shrub, 2670M, 3, Sep., 2001, leg. Jun Chen. **Newly recorded from China.**

Measurements of adult: Prodorsum: length 285–315, width 210–240, height 125–160, sensillus 150, setae: *in* 115, *le* 135, *ro* 135, distance between setae: *in-in* 145, *le-le* 200, *ro-ro* 170, *in-le* 65, *le-ro* 80; notogaster: length 430–475, width 325–355, height 305–340, setae: *c*₁ 115, *c*₂ 120, *c*₃ 100, *c*_p 150, *d*₁ 120, *d*₂ 155, *e*₁ 150, *e*₂ 155, distance between setae: *c*₁–*d*₁ 140, *d*₁–*e*₁ 260; ventral region: ventral setae: *v*₁ 70, *v*₂ 80, *v*₃ 95, *v*₄ 95, *v*₅ 105, *v*₆ 85, *h*₂ 80, *h*₃ 80, *an*₁ 55, *an*₂ 60, *an*₃ 45; “ano-adanal” plate 120×62.5.

All prodorsal and notogastral setae covered with small barbs, except seta *c*₃ fine, short and smooth, seta *c*₂ more remote from anterior margin than setae *c*₁ and *c*₃; six pairs of ventral setae thick and barbed; setae *h*₂ and *h*₃ thin and smooth; six pairs of smooth genital setae and three pairs of barbed “ano-adanal” setae present.

Distribution. China (Tibet); India; Indonesia; Malaysia; Nepal.

Remarks. Compared with the descriptions of specimens collected from other places, the body of our specimens is relatively bigger. There are three pairs of “ano-adanal” setae in the specimens we examined, which is not consistent with the original description (four pairs of “ano-adanal” setae) of this species. But considering the number of “ano-adanal” seta is a feature subject to individual variation (Niedbala 2001), and



FIGURE 5–7. *Apoplophora heterotricha* Mahunka, 1987 (specimen from Tibet): 5, prodorsum, dorsal view; 6, lateral view of body (legs removed); 7, ventral region. Scale bars: 5–7 = 100µm.

all other morphological features of our specimens are the same as those indicated in the original description of *A. heterotracha* Mahunka, 1987, we identify them as this species.

***Apoplophora pantotrema* (Berlese, 1913)**

(Figs. 8–14)

Mesoplophora pantotrema Berlese, 1913, p. 10, fig. 94.

Apoplophora pantotrema: Chu & Aoki, 1997, p. 174; Wang, Wen & Chen, 2002, p. 109.

Material examined: 5 adults (in alcohol, W-90-117), CHINA: Beijing, Yanqing County (40°31'34.86"N, 116° 9'17.63"E), from litter under trees of persimmon, May, 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 1 adult (in alcohol, CJ-07-22), Beijing, Fangshan District, Simatai (39°46'55.88"N, 115°37'53.32"E), from litter under deadwood, 2070M, 5, July, 2007, leg. Jun Chen; 12 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-1, LD-07-2, LD-07-4), Hainan Province, Lingao County, Gaoshanling Nature Reserve (19°55'48.4"N, 109°38'18.5"E), from litter, 165M, 27 July, 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 5 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-7), same data as LD-07-1, from litter under shrub; 6 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-21), Hainan Province, Baisha County, Yinggeling Nature Reserve (19°03'0.2"N, 109°33'48.0"E), Yinggezui, from litter under deadwood, 635M, 29 July, 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 4 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-27), Hainan Province, Changjiang Li Autonomous County, Bawangling National Nature Reserve (19°07'0.5"N, 109°05'6.3"E), from litter under rubber forest, 156M, 31 July, 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-31), same data as LD-07-27, from litter under moss; 9 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-35), Hainan Province, Changjiang Li Autonomous County, Bawangling National Nature Reserve (19°05'0.2"N, 109°07'3.0"E), Yajia, from litter under arbor forest, 516M, 1 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-38), same data as LD-07-35, from litter under roots in a cave; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-39), Hainan Province, Changjiang Li Autonomous County, Bawangling National Nature Reserve (19°01'6.2"N, 109°06'18.4"E), Exianling, from litter under deadwood, 518M, 2 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 3 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-46), Hainan Province, Changjiang Li Autonomous County, Bawangling National Nature Reserve (19°05'18.2"N, 109°11'18.4"E), from litter under arbor forest, 1040M, 3 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-47), same data as LD-07-46, from litter under fern; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-48), same data as LD-07-46, from litter under pine forest; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-50, LD-07-51), same data as LD-07-46, from litter under pine forest; 29 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-53, LD-07-54, LD-07-57), Hainan Province, Dongfang City, Datian National Nature Reserve (19°06'36.0"N, 108°47'36.2"E), from litter under arbor forest, 70M, 5 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 11 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-55, LD-07-54), same data as LD-07-53, from litter under deadwood; 21 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-56), same data as LD-07-53, from litter under shrub; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-58), Hainan Province, Dongfang City, Datian Village (19°02'54.2"N, 108°49'36.1"E), from litter under arbor forest, 144M, 6 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-59), same data as LD-07-58, from litter under shrub; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-60), same data as LD-07-58, from litter under Banyan; 3 adults (in alcohol, H9403I3), Hainan Province, Ledong Li Autonomous County, Jianfengling National Forest Park (18°41'48.4"N, 108°47'18.0"E), from litter under deadwood, Mar., 1994, leg. Chong-Hui Liao; 5 adults (in alcohol, H9404I210, H9404I203), same data as H9403I3, Apr., 1994, leg. Chong-Hui Liao; 5 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-64, LD-07-65, LD-07-71), Hainan Province, Ledong Li Autonomous County, Jianfengling National Forest Park (18°41'48.4"N, 108°47'18.0"E), Institute of Subtropical Forestry, from litter under arbor forest, 64M, 7 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 3 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-67), same data as LD-07-64, from litter under cycad plant; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-68), Hainan Province, Ledong Li Autonomous County, Jianfengling National Forest Park (18°43'0.1"N, 108°52'18.5"E), main peak, from litter under arbor forest, 1357M, 8 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 5 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-81), Hainan Province, Wuzhishan City, Wuzhi National Nature Reserve (18°53'48.2"N, 109°41'48.0"E), Hudiegu, from litter under deadwood, 635M, 13 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-96), Hainan Province, Wuzhishan City, Wuzhishan National Nature Reserve (18°53'48.2"N, 109°41'48.0"E), main

peak, from litter under bamboo forest, 1740M, 16 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 6 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-99), same data as LD-07-96, from litter under deadwood; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-103), Hainan Province, Qiongzong Li and Miao Autonomous County, Limu Mt. (19°10'36.5"N, 109°44'12.2"E), Qumu, from litter under palm forest, 820M, 18 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-106), same data as LD-07-103, from litter under bamboo and arbor forest; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-110), Hainan Province, Qiongzong Li and Miao Autonomous County, Limu Mt. (19°10'54.2"N, 109°45'6.5"E), from litter under arbor forest, 946M, 19 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 3 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-111), same data as LD-07-110, from litter under bamboo forest; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-113), same data as LD-07-110, from litter under trees of *Alsophila spinulosa*; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-118), Hainan Province, Qiongzong Li and Miao Autonomous County, Limu Mt. (19°10'30.4"N, 109°44'30.2"E), Limu River, from litter under *Livistona*, 616M, 20 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 4 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-120), same data as LD-07-118, from litter under arbor forest; 5 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-124), Hainan Province, Dingan County, Huangzhu (19°28'22.38"N, 110°26'48.29"E), from litter under arbor forest, 136M, 21 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu; 1 adult (in alcohol, LD-07-125), same data as LD-07-124, from litter under trees of pepper; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-133), same data as LD-07-124, from litter under arbor forest; 2 adults (in alcohol, W-89-16), Fujian Province, Wuyi Mt., Sangang (27°44'52.25"N, 117°40'59.28"E), from litter under deadwood, 27 Apr., 1989, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 9 adults (in alcohol, W-89-23), same data as W-89-16, from litter under deadwood, 28 Apr., 1989, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 3 adults (in alcohol, W-89-18, W-89-20, W-89-21), Fujian Province, Wuyi Mt. (27°45'23.97"N, 118°2'7.11"E), Tongmu, from litter under deadwood, 28 Apr., 1989, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 23 adults, 3 nymphs (in alcohol, W-89-30, W-89-31, W-89-33, W-89-34, W-89-35), Fujian Province, Wuyi Mt. (27°45'23.97"N, 118°2'7.11"E), Guadun, from litter under deadwood, 30 Apr., 1989, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 5 adults (in alcohol, W-90-62, W-90-63), Fujian Province, Jiangle County (26°43'42.90"N, 117°28'18.51"E), Longxi Mt., Shejiaping, from litter, 9 Sep., 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 1 adult (in alcohol, W-90-66), same data as W-90-62, from litter under bamboo forest, 11 Sep., 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 2 adults (in alcohol, W-90-83, W-90-84), same data as W-90-62, from litter under mixed forest, 21 Sep., 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 1 adult (in alcohol, W-90-67), Fujian Province: Jiangle County (26°43'42.90"N, 117°28'18.51"E), Longxi Mt., Qingshano, from litter under bamboo forest, 12 Sep., 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 10 adults (in alcohol, W-90-69, W-90-70), Fujian Province, Jiangle County (26°43'42.90"N, 117°28'18.51"E), Longxi Mt., Jiangjunding, from litter under bamboo forest, 16 Sep., 1990, leg. Hui-Fu Wang; 8 adults, 2 nymphs (in alcohol, W-91-6), Fujian Province, Jiangle County (26°43'42.90"N, 117°28'18.51"E), Longxi Mt., from litter, 26 June, 1991, leg. Xiao-Mei Zhang; 2 adults (in alcohol, LD-07-140), Guangdong Province, Guangzhou City, South China Agricultural University (23°09'24.5"N, 113°20'48.4"E), from litter under arbor forest, 26 Aug., 2007, leg. Dong Liu.

Measurements of specimens from Beijing: Prodorsum: length 220–285, width 175–195, height 115–155, sensillus 115; setae: *in* 70, *le* 85, *ro* 100; distance between setae: *in-in* 125, *le-le* 165, *ro-ro* 140, *in-le* 40, *le-ro* 60; notogaster: length 240–330, width 270–300, height 190–255, setae: *c*₁ 70, *c*₂ 95, *c*₃ 100, *c*_p 110, *d*₁ 75, *d*₂ 90, *e*₁ 100, *e*₂ 100; “ano-adanal” plate 90×50. Measurements of specimens from Hainan: Prodorsum: length 185–210, width 145–148, height 110–120, sensillus 90; setae: *in* 50, *le* 60, *ro* 95; distance between setae: *in-in* 95, *le-le* 120, *ro-ro* 105, *in-le* 35, *le-ro* 50; notogaster: length 270–275, width 215–220, height 155–190; setae: *c*₁ 55, *c*₂ 75, *c*₃ 90, *c*_p 85, *d*₁ 55, *d*₂ 75, *e*₁ 85, *e*₂ 85; “ano-adanal” plate 70×35.

Surface of body smooth or prodorsum with longitudinal striations; all prodorsal and notogastral setae densely barbed, seta *c*₂ more remote from anterior margin than setae *c*₁ and *c*₃; six pairs of ventral setae thick and densely barbed; one or two pairs of setae on antero-lateral position, short, thin and smooth; six pairs of smooth genital setae present; “ano-adanal” setae two, three or four pairs, covered with small barbs.

Distribution. China; Australia; Fiji; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Papua New Guinea; Philippines; Solomon Islands; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Vietnam.

Remarks. *Apoplophora pantotrema* is the first record of *Apoplophora* in China, but it was simply listed in the paper concerning soil ecology without any description and comment (Chu & Aoki 1997).

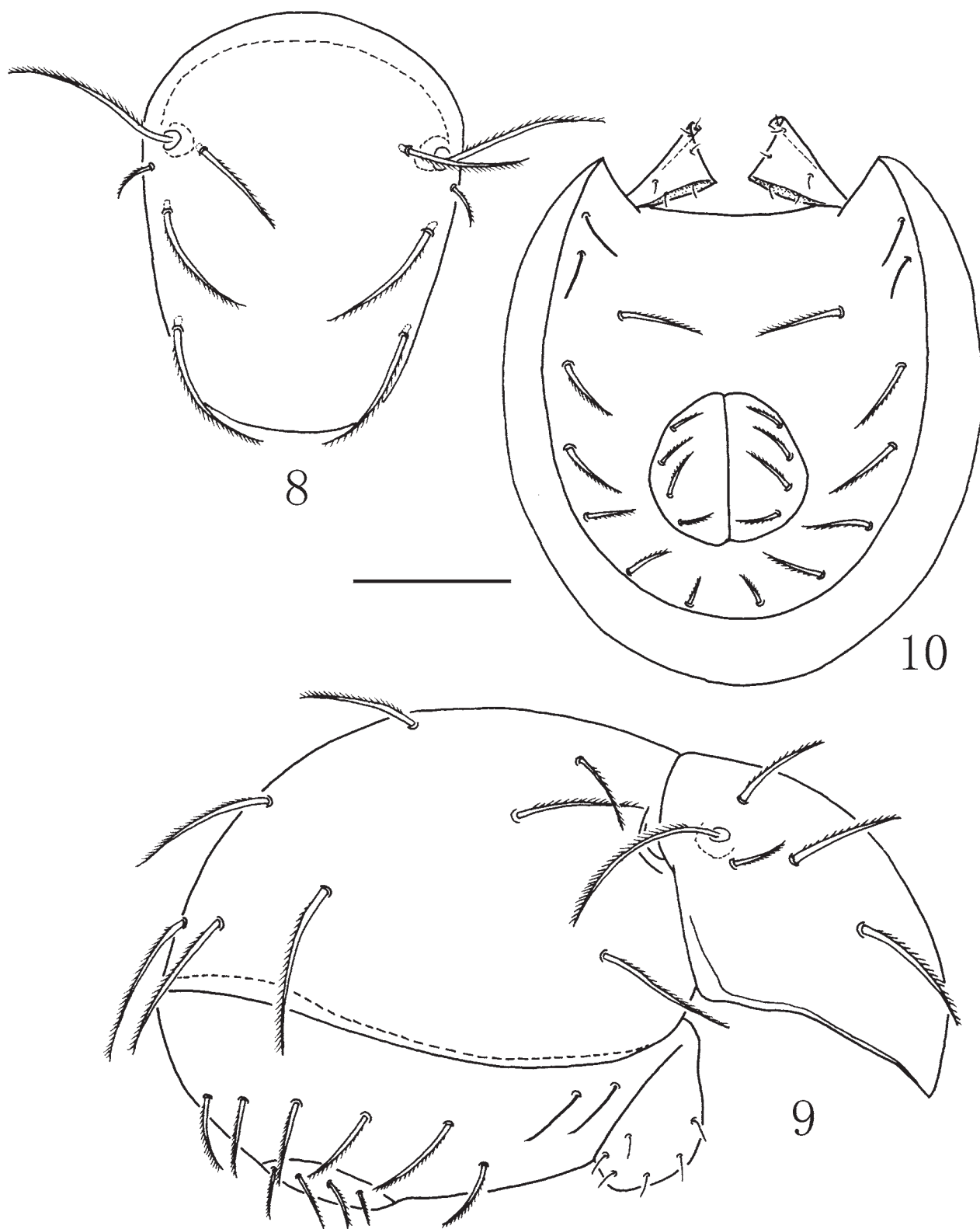


FIGURE 8–10. *Apoplophora pantotrema* (Berlese, 1913) (specimen from Beijing): 8, prodorsum, dorsal view; 9, lateral view of body (legs removed); 10, ventral region. Scale bars: 8–10 = 100 μ m.

Niedbała (2001) concluded that some morphological features of species in *Apoplophora* show individual variation: the ornamentation of the body and the number of ventral and anal setae. Among the specimens we collected from a single locality, we found their body smooth or ornamented by longitudinal striations, three or

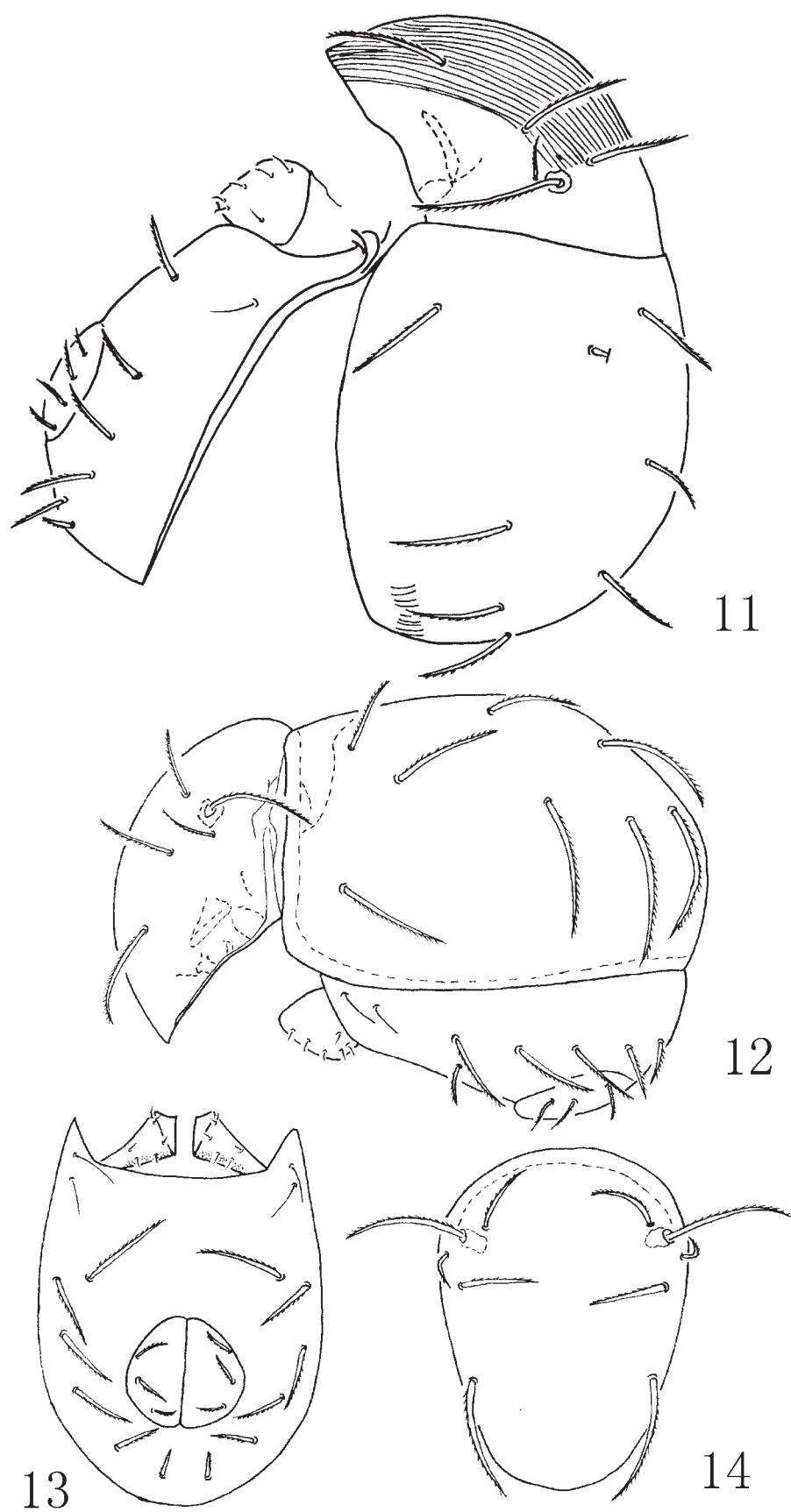


FIGURE 11–14. *Apoplophora pantotrema* (Berlese, 1913) (11. specimen from Beijing, 12–14, specimens from Hainan): 11, lateral view of body (broken, legs removed); 12, lateral view of body (legs removed); 13, ventral region; 14, prodorsum, dorsal view. Scale bars: 11–14 = 100 μ m.

four pairs of “ano-adanal” setae present, and one or two pairs of setae on antero-lateral position of ventral region. It further confirms the view of Niedbala (2001) that these features are of little use in diagnosis and taxonomy in this genus.

Key to species of *Apoplophora*

1	Prodorsal setae smooth, exobothridial seta shorter than diameter of bothridium.....	<i>A. ornata</i> Niedbala
-	Prodorsal setae barbed, exobothridial seta longer than diameter of bothridium	2
2	Lateral carinae of prodorsum present	3
-	Lateral carinae of prodorsum absent.....	4
3	Seta c_3 fine, smooth and shorter than other notogastral setae.....	<i>A. malaya</i> Mahunka
-	Seta c_3 covered with barbs and similar in shape to other notogastral setae	<i>A. cristata</i> Mahunka
4	Sensillus smooth	5
-	Sensillus barbed	6
5	Seta c_3 fine, smooth and shorter than other notogastral setae.....	<i>A. solomonensis</i> Niedbala
-	Seta c_3 covered with barbs and similar in shape to other notogastral setae	<i>A. serrata</i> Niedbala
6	Setae series h rough or barbed	7
-	Setae series h smooth or only posterior pair barbed	9
7	Seta c_3 fine, smooth and shorter than other notogastral setae.....	<i>A. dentata</i> sp. nov.
-	Seta c_3 covered with barbs and similar in shape to other notogastral setae	8
8	Rostral seta thicker than other prodorsal setae, six pairs of ventral setae present.....	<i>A. phalerata</i> Niedbala
-	Interlamellar seta thicker than other prodorsal setae, five pairs of ventral setae present	<i>A. kapiti</i> Niedbala
9	All dorsal setae short, distance between prodorsal setae always greater than their length.....	<i>A. spinosa</i> Mahunka
-	All dorsal setae long, distance between prodorsal setae smaller than their length.....	10
10	Seta c_3 fine, smooth and shorter than other notogastral setae	11
-	Seta c_3 covered with barbs and similar in shape to other notogastral setae	12
11	Prodorsum with distinct longitudinal striations; ventral plate with densely punctate region.....	
-	Prodorsum without longitudinal striations, and ventral plate without densely punctate region.....	<i>A. aokii</i> Mondal, Kundu & Roy
	<i>A. heterotricha</i> Mahunka
12	“Ano-adanal” seta smooth	<i>A. sarawaki</i> Niedbala
-	“Ano-adanal” seta barbed or rough	13
13	Setae series h smooth.....	14
-	Posterior pair of setae series h barbed	<i>A. marcuardi</i> Mahunka
14	Surface of notogaster with arrangement of triangular elements; tritonymph with two pairs of ventral setae and two pairs of genital setae.....	<i>A. triquetra</i> Niedbala
-	Surface of notogaster without arrangement of triangular elements; tritonymph with three pairs of ventral setae and three pairs of genital setae.....	<i>A. pantotrema</i> (Berlese)

Remarks. On the basis of the view of Niedbala (2001) and the specimens we studied, we avoided using the features that show individual variation, except for two species, *A. aokii* and *A. triquetra*. According to the original description, *A. aokii* can be distinguished from *A. heterotricha* only by the presence of striations on prodorsum and the number of setae on antero-lateral position of ventral region which are all subject to individual variation. So, we are not fully convinced that these two species are distinct. Similarly, adults of *A. triquetra* differ from those of *A. pantotrema* only by the ornamentation of body, but there are important differences in the tritonymph. Therefore, we use combined characters of adult and tritonymph to distinguish these two species.

Acknowledgements

We deeply thank Prof. Da-Xiang Song for his encouragement to our research work. We are very grateful to Prof. W. Niedbala, Department of Animal Taxonomy and Ecology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland, and

Prof. S. Mahunka, Zoological Department, Hungarian Natural History Museum, for providing assistance and supplying references to the first author. Two anonymous reviewers provided constructive comments. Our thanks are also given to Prof. Hui-Fu Wang, Mr. Yin-Heng Han, Mr. Chong-Hui Liao and Mrs. Xiao-Mei Zhang for collecting some of the specimens we studied. This work was supported by the National Natural Sciences Foundation of China (Grant No. 30870269), the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST Grant No. 2006FY110500), and the National Science Fund for Fostering Talents in Basic Research (Special Subjects in Animal Taxonomy, NSFC-J0630964/J0109).

References

- Aoki, J. (1980) A revision of the oribatid mites of Japan. III. Families Protoplophoridae, Archoplophoridae and Mesoplophoridae. *Proceedings of the Japanese of Systematic Zoology*, 18, 5–16.
- Berlese, A. (1913) Acari Nuovi. Manipoli VII–VIII. *Redia*, 9, 77–111.
- Chu, Y.I. & Aoki, J. (1997) Fauna of oribatid mite at Fu-Shan forest litter and humus layer. *Chinese Journal of Entomology*, 17(3), 172–178.
- Grandjean, F. (1933) Oribates de l'Afrique du Nord (1 re serie). *Bulletin de la Societe d' Histoire Naturelle de l'Afrique du Nord*, 24, 308–323.
- van der Hammen, L. (1959) Berlese's primitive oribatid mites. *Zoologische Verhandelingen*, 40, 1–93.
- Hammer, M. (1979) Investigations on the oribatid fauna of Java. *Biologische Skrifter*, 22(9), 1–79.
- Mahunka, S. (1985) Neue und interessante Milben aus dem Genfer Museum LIV. Oribatids from South India I (Acari: Oribatida). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*, 92(2), 367–383.
- Mahunka, S. (1987) Neue und interessante Milben aus dem Genfer Museum LX. Oribatids from Sabah (East Malaysia) II (Acari: Oribatida). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*, 94(4), 765–817.
- Mahunka, S. (1988) New and interesting mites from the Geneva Museum LXI. Oribatids from Sabah (East Malaysia) III (Acari: Oribatida). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*, 95(3), 817–888.
- Mahunka, S. (1991) New and interesting mites from the Geneva Museum LXVII. Soil inhabiting ptychoid oribatids from Malaysia (Acari: Oribatida). *Revue Suisse de Zoologie*, 98(2), 325–354.
- Mondal, B.K., Kundu, B.G. & Roy, S. (1999) A new cryptostigmatid mite (Acari: Oribatei, Apoplophoridae) from Darjeeling, India. *Records of the Zoological Survey of India*, 97(2), 73–78.
- Niedbala, W. (1984) Mesoplophoroidea (Acari, Oribatida). Changement du système et redescription d'espèces-types. *Bulletin of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Biological Sciences*, 32(3–4), 137–155.
- Niedbala, W. (1993) Revision of oribatid mites from Berlese's collection. III. Redescription of species from Mesoplophoroidea and Euphthiracaroida (Acari, Oribatida). *Genus*, 4(1), 41–58.
- Niedbala, W. (1998) Ptyctimous mites of the Pacific islands. Recent knowledge, origin, descriptions, redescrptions, diagnoses and zoogeography (Acari, Oribatida). *Genus*, 9(4), 431–558.
- Niedbala, W. (2000) The ptyctimous mites fauna of the Oriental and Australian regions and their centres of origin (Acari: Oribatida). *Genus*, supplement, 1–493.
- Niedbala, W. (2001) *Apoplophora*—oriental genus of Mesoplophoroidea (Acari, Oribatida). *Acarologia*, 41 (3), 361–379.
- Niedbala, W. (2004) Supplement to the knowledge of ptyctimous mites of Oriental region (Acari, Oribatida). *Genus*, 15(3), 391–423.
- Niedbala, W. & Corpuz-Raros, L.A. (1998) Ptyctimous mites (Acari, Oribatida) from the Philippines. *The Philippine Agriculturist*, 81(1–2), 1–58.
- Niedbala, W., Corpuz-Raros, L.A. & Gruezo, W. SM. (2006) Ptyctimous mites mainly from Samar Island of the Philippines (Acari: Oribatida). *Genus*, 17(3), 449–470.
- Norton, R.A. (1984) Monophyletic groups in the Enarthronota. In: Griffiths, D.A. & Bowman, C.E. (Eds), *Acarology VI, Vol. 1*. Ellis Horwood Ltd., Publ., Chichester, pp. 233–240.
- Norton, R.A. & Behan-Pelletier, V.M. (2007) *Eniochthonius mahunkai* sp. n. (Acari: Oribatida: Eniochthoniidae), from North American peatlands, with a redescription of *Eniochthonius* and a key to North American species. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae*, 53(4), 295–333.
- Subías, L.S. (2004) Systematic, synonymical and biogeographical check-list of the world's oribatid mites (Acariformes, Oribatida) (1758–2002). *Graellsia*, 60 (número extraordinario), 3–305.
- Wang, H.F., Wen, Z.G. & Chen, J. (2002) A checklist of oribatid mites of China (I) (Acari: Oribatida). *Acta Arachnologica Sinica*, 11(2), 107–127.